

Wed. 25th May 1910. 'Long to have time to rest and feel. Laburnum and pink May out in blossom, divine birds, scents, clouds!'

Thur. 26th May 1910. 'Glorious weather, enchantment of the song of birds, the budding of the May, the scents and sounds of summer—contrasts—wrote to schoolmistress whose daughter at 7 died last week, God help her.'

These entries were written at Cadoxton Lodge, Neath, to which Mrs Coombe-Tennant had travelled on 24th from London. Oliver Lodge came to see her on May 6th, and the diary notes 'Second D.I.' On 21st Diary notes 'Oliver Lodge 3rd D.I.'

There is no reference to 'the Mayflower' in the diaries, but only to 'the May' and 'pink May'. The annotation on p. 100 of *Swan* is therefore not strictly accurate. It is impossible to say definitely if 'May' is written with a capital letter in the diaries, but my wife and I think that it is.

3. *Was Mrs Coombe-Tennant known to refer to the W.8. district as 'West Kensington' (as in Script 33)?*

Not so far as I know. I think that the reference to 'West Kensington' was an error.

4. *From correspondence in the S.P.R. archives it appears that Mrs Coombe-Tennant was liable to spell 'across' as 'accross'. Are there any signs of the same mistake occurring in the scripts?*

My wife and I can confirm that in some of the diaries before 1913 the word 'across' is spelt 'accross'; but we have not found instances of this mistake in the scripts.

ALEXANDER COOMBE-TENNANT

The Fawcett Scripts

SIR,—When I first read Mr Simeon Edmunds's article *An Automatists's Scripts Compared with some Original Writings by the Alleged Communicator* (*Journal S.P.R.* March 1966), I felt certain (as I stated in *Psychic News* for April 23rd 1966) that I could not have read the article by P. H. Fawcett in the *Occult Review* for August 1923. I had (and still have) no recollection of so doing; moreover in August 1923 I was in Ireland, and did not return to London until late December.

However since making the statements quoted in *Psychic News* I have consulted files of the *Occult Review*. I discover that the August 1923 issue of the *Occult Review* contains an article by Mrs Travers Smith on the Oscar Wilde scripts. I acted as amanuensis for some of the scripts and in the following year wrote an article on them in the *Occult Review*. I did not myself subscribe

to the *Occult Review*, but in late December 1923 I did go to live with Mrs Travers Smith, who would no doubt have received complimentary copies of the August number. I have therefore to agree that it is *possible* that I looked at it, and also that I would have had some reason for so doing.

None the less I do not myself think it likely that I looked at Fawcett's actual article. My father, Prof. Ashley Cummins, died in mid-October 1923, and in consequence I was in Ireland from July to December 1923. After my return to London I was fully occupied with literary Journalism, and I continued my consciously written Irish, literary work when I had the time for it. So until some date after Miss Gibbes's death in 1951 I deliberately avoided reading about psychical research or the occult for fear that it would injure with its somewhat ponderous verbiage my prose style in my Irish literary work.

I never to my knowledge read the passage in the *Occult Review* published in it in 1923 by the living Colonel Fawcett. But Miss Gibbes was a very keen investigator and therefore read all she could find about him. It is quite probable that in 1948 Miss Gibbes conveyed telepathically to myself the passage from the 1923 Fawcett article, when I was writing automatically. For this there may even be a special reason. In the Fawcett article there is a passage about obtaining extra vitality from trees. When I was a weak and delicate girl of eleven I wanted to join in the lively games of my four elder brothers, all strong. I used often, when alone, to clasp the most ancient of the trees, imploring each 'Mr Tree, please make me strong!' This memory might have served the discarnate Col. Fawcett as a 'link' for knitting into his post-mortem account of Brazil some of what he had written in that article; at any rate the passages quoted fitted in well with what came both before and after, for the insertion is a sequence and not scattered as Mr Edmunds seems to imply by speaking of 'scripts' in the plural.

On the hypothesis of telepathy as the explanation, I remember that many years ago I gave a sitting to the poet W. B. Yeats. I obtained almost word for word an outline of a dramatic plot he was working on, though he said that at the sitting he was not consciously thinking of it. (See page 203 of my book *Mind in Life and Death*).

GERALDINE CUMMINS

Harry Price and 'Rosalie'

SIR,—At the risk of being tedious, perhaps I might comment very briefly on two matters of fact, questioned by Mr Cohen in